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YELLOW JOURNALS ARE DENOUNCED

Senator Works Wishes to Elevate Standard of Country's Newspapers.

TALKS OF BEATTIE CASE

He Would Take All "Poison" Out of News of Crimes and Accidents.

Washington, April 17.—A solemn warning against the effects of "yellow journalism" upon the men, women and children of the country was given by Senator Works, of California to-day when he addressed the Senate in the interests of his bill prohibiting the publication of details of crimes and accidents in the District of Columbia. He declared that something must be done to elevate the standard of journalism in the United States, both in the interests of the public and of the newspaper men.

"Another phase of newspaper work that should challenge attention by the men of the highest order of journalism is the want of reliability of journalistic news and information," said Senator Works.

"The newspaper is a great and powerful influence in a free country like ours, where the press is free and untrammelled. That influence may be used for good or evil. The publisher of a newspaper takes upon himself responsibilities of the highest order. He may make his publication an influence and support for the very best in public and private life.

"That some of our newspaper men are not living up to this high ideal of true journalism none, I believe, will be more ready to admit than journalists themselves, and none, I am very sure, would be better pleased than they to remedy the evils that have resulted from a departure from the higher standard."

Referring to the statement often made that the people want the kind of news published by the "yellow journals," Senator Works said, "If this is true it is certainly a grave charge against the American people. But assuming that the greater number of people really want their papers to publish such stuff, who is responsible for this depraved appetite? The men who publish the papers should seriously ask themselves that question and act accordingly."

Beattie Trial Reports.
Senator Works spoke at length of the manner in which the newspapers "covered" the Beattie trial in Virginia and the Titanic disaster a year ago as

evidences of the harm done by such methods of journalism.

"The mere mention that such a crime as the murder of Mrs. Beattie had been committed was enough," said Senator Works, "to go further was an offense against the common rules of decency. It was calculated to arouse the worst passions of men. The reading of it could do no possible good."

Speaking of the life of the reporter who writes about such crimes, Senator Works said:

"What a life this is for any man to lead! It makes one shudder to think of it. And most of the men who are instrumental in this wholesale poisoning of the minds of our people are young men, often mere boys. It is appalling to think of such a school of vice, falsehood and the violation of the sacred rights of others."

Deplores Unreliability.
Senator Works deplored the unreliability of newspapers in reporting events, particularly the acts of public bodies like Congress.

"Nothing connected with newspaper work has done more than this to lose the confidence of the public and to destroy their influence," said Senator Works. "Such journalism is a violation of the duty which a newspaper owes its readers. An aggravated case of this kind of unreliability and false journalism may be found in what the newspapers printed about the pretended make-up of the Cabinet of the newly elected President of the United States. Men were named as members of the Cabinet, and conversations between the President-elect and his alleged advisers were printed as if the newspaper writers had been present to hear what was said. But the fact that such publications are false is not the worst of it. Sometimes they are wilfully and maliciously false. In other cases they are intended to embarrass public men written about, and often have that effect and do great injustice."

Refers to State Laws.
Senator Works referred to the fact that in Indiana, Kansas and Missouri laws have been passed aimed at the suppression of stories about crimes and pictures of crimes.

"What is the remedy for this evil of poisoning the minds of the readers of newspapers?" asked Senator Works. "The one effective and sure remedy lies with the journalists and newspaper publishers themselves. They can, if they will, stand out against such hurtful journalism. Another remedy lies with the public. If the men and women who read the newspapers read papers which publish the kind of stuff, or to advertise in them, 'Still another remedy is by the enactment of laws forbidding such publications under penalty. Any such effort at once the cry that it is in violation of the Constitution of the United States. The Constitution provides: 'Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press.'"

"This provision of the Constitution should be so construed as to give full effect to its terms. The freedom to speak and write one's views on any and every subject, especially subjects affecting the public welfare, should be carefully and effectually preserved and

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protected. This is a privilege that should be held sacred in a country like ours. But there are other rights and privileges on the part of the public that should be just as sacredly observed and as carefully protected. So the real question is: how far can an individual newspaper trespass upon the rights and liberties of the public and claim immunity under this provision of the Constitution?

The government has gone so far as to prohibit the sending of such matter through the mails, and this law has been enforced in many cases. Of course, this is not to prohibit the publication, but in most cases it has that effect. Besides, to prohibit the sending of a newspaper containing such news through the mails is to abridge the freedom of publication."

Work of Cartoonists.
Senator Works paid his respects to the cartoonists. He said:

"The abuses on the part of the cartoonists are many. To my mind, one of the worst offenses is the treatment of the President of the United States. Whoever he may be, and whatever his personality, the office itself should be respected and protected. Occupant from such caricatures of him as are all too common. I often wonder what other countries must think of a people who will allow their chief magistrate to be subjected to such treatment."

"The bill I have introduced will probably never become a law. The cry will be raised that it is an effort to muzzle the press and censor the news, and this is usually all powerful when it is raised for the protection of the newspapers, although other purveyors of information, through the moving pictures and otherwise, appeal to it in vain. This is a discrimination in favor of the newspaper that finds no justification in law or justice."

"It has been my main purpose to call the attention of the country to one of the greatest, most powerful and most corrupting evils and influences of the present age. It is an evil which I admit cannot be overcome by law. It must be met by a better and purer public sentiment that will demand cleaner and more reliable journalism."

Death of C. Brooks Johnston.
Norfolk, Va., April 17.—C. Brooks Johnston died suddenly in Baltimore yesterday morning. His death occurred at 7 A. M. at a sanatorium just outside the city of Baltimore, where he had recently gone in search of improved health, his health having been failing for several years.

Mr. Johnston is survived by a widow, Mrs. Clara M. Johnston; a brother, James J. Johnston; two step-daughters, Mrs. John B. W. Taylor and Mrs. Randolph R. Cooke. He was a brother-in-law of R. E. Tabbutt.

He was a native of Norfolk, where he had resided all his life, and was for a number of years active in the commercial and civic life of Norfolk and always to the greatest interest in public affairs.

In his business relations, Mr. Johnston was connected with the Norfolk Knitting Mills from the time of their establishment in 1890, until his death, latterly being vice-president and treasurer of the Knitting Mills Operating Company.

At the close of the Prohibition Reform administration in Norfolk in 1896, Mr. Johnston became a member of the Board of Police Commissioners and two years later was elected Mayor of Norfolk, serving in that capacity for two years, resigning while holding that position to become general manager of the Norfolk Railway and Light Company's properties, until the opening of the Jamestown Exposition.

He was chairman of the board of governors of the Jamestown Exposition, and while in that capacity he had much to do with the detail work for the ter-centennial celebration. In this capacity he gave to the exposition an untold amount of energy, being often at his desk night and day.

Before entering actively into municipal affairs he was largely interested in the development of what is known as Atlantic City and was the first chairman of the Local Board of Improvement of Atlantic City after that ward had become an integral part of the city, taking large interest in school affairs, and through his influence the Atlantic City School No. 1 was erected.

He also took a lively interest in the street improvements of Atlantic City, and it was due to his efforts that much of the street paving now enjoyed by the residents of Atlantic City was obtained. He was a director in the National Bank for Savings and Trust, and president of the Lafayette Residence Park Company, a member of the Virginia Club and the Ragged Island Gunning Club.

Two Killed in Aeroplane Fall.
Saloniki, April 17.—Lieutenant Arghyropoulos, Greek aviator, and passenger, Constantinos Manos, a noted Greek chief, were killed to-day by a fall of an aeroplane from a height of 2,000 feet.

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Joseph Brucker and His Balloon, Suchard II

Las Palmas, Canary Islands, April 17.—A mysterious mishap to the dirigible balloon, Suchard II, has caused a temporary postponement of the start of Joseph Brucker and his two companions on their long flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

When Brucker reached the aerodrome to-day he found that the gigantic gas bag had become completely deflated during the night. Investigation showed that the main valve had been opened, although whether this came from accident or design is not certain. Gas apparently had been escaping all night, and if Brucker had set out yesterday, as he originally intended, he probably would have fallen into the ocean. Work of reinflating the balloon was begun at once.

While this was going on Krueger and Peter, respectively engineer and mechanic, began overhauling the mechanical parts of the aerial car.

Brucker's departure had been fixed for 4 o'clock this afternoon and enormous crowds had gathered to see the final preparations. The spectators were much chagrined at the accident, and some of them shouted criticisms at the aeronaut, which stung.

Aeronaut Brucker was heart-broken at the accident. He declared that it would be impossible to say when he would be able to cross. Thirteen fresh cylinders of compressed oxygen are being rushed from Germany, but by the time they arrive the weather may have become stormy.

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